



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

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From the Office of the Embassy Spokesman,

For Immediate release

### **Geneva Meeting on Syria a Major Diplomatic Step Forward**

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, July 3, 2012 --

Some press reports on the June 30 Syria Action Group meeting in Geneva failed to tell whole story or accurately depict the agreement issued at the conclusion of Geneva meeting. The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh would like to emphasize the following:

- The June 30 Syria Action Group meeting was a major diplomatic step forward for the following reasons:
  1. First, the P-5 and other members of the international community agreed to support Kofi Annan's principles and guidelines for a Syrian-led transition, including:
    - the goal of a democratic, pluralistic Syria that upholds the rule of law and respects the universal rights of all people and all communities, regardless of ethnicity, sect, or gender;
    - maintaining the integrity of the Syrian state and its institutions;
    - the formation of a transitional governing body exercising full executive powers, which would be broadly inclusive and chosen by mutual consent; and
    - an inclusive and transparent Syrian-led process to review the constitution and prepare for free and multiparty elections.
  2. Second, the United States and others will take this plan to the Friends of the Syrian People in Paris July 6 and seek to build even greater international consensus and momentum.
  3. Third, in Geneva Secretary Clinton called on every nation to use all possible leverage to pressure both the regime and the opposition to accept and support the Annan plan. Those states that carry influence with the Syrian Government should insist that Asad halt the violence, accept the transition principles, and comply with his obligations under the plan.



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4. It was the clear consensus of all present in Geneva that the Asad regime must give way to something new - a transitional governing body that would receive full executive powers and whose members would be chosen by opposition and government negotiators on the basis of mutual consent. So if conditions on the ground eventually permit the "Syrian-led political transition process," the opposition will have a veto as to who is in the body receiving full executive powers. While there were minor changes introduced to the Special Envoy's original text in Geneva, the core point remains that it is inconceivable in our view that the opposition would accept participation in the transitional governing authority of those in the regime with blood on their hands, hence our understanding that the agreed text affirms that President Asad will have to go.
5. The United States will accelerate its work in the Security Council in New York on a resolution that would reaffirm Annan's six-point plan and the guidelines and principles adopted today, which obligates the regime to stop its attacks and pull back its troops, and impose real and immediate consequences for noncompliance, including sanctions, as the Joint Special Envoy has requested.

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